

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 3 CANBERRA 505

AUGUST 1

PASS USIA

REF: EXBTCL 327

WESTERWAY: WAS THE MUTILATION PART OF THE AMERICAN  
POLICY OF WAS THIS JUST SOMETHING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE TEAM  
THEMSELVES TOOK ON?

BARTOS: I THINK THIS IS USUALLY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE - THE FBI'S  
AMERICANS WERE ONLY CONCERNED WITH IS THE GUY DEAD AND THAT'S  
ALL THEY CARE ABOUT. WHETHER HE WAS MUTILATED OR NOT THEY  
COULD NOT CARE LESS - HE WAS DEAD, THAT WAS THE IMPORTANT  
THING.

WESTERWAY: NOW YOU REACTED HOSTILELY TO THIS. BUT WHAT  
ABOUT THE VIETCONGS KILLING OF THE LEADERS OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE  
VILLAGES?

BARTOS: WELL THE FACTS ARE THAT, AS I KNOW, THAT EVERY TIME  
THEY HAD A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION IN THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT  
THEY THEY PUT THEIR FRIENDS AS A KIND OF SPOIL SYSTEM IN ALL  
OF THE PROVINCES. IN OTHER WORDS THE PROVINCE CHIEFS  
WERE REPLACED, THE POLICE CHIEFS WERE REPLACED, AND ALL  
THE DOG-HB  
WHOLE STRUCTURE WAS REPLACED WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE PUT IN THESE  
AREAS WHO WERE NOT BORN AND RAISED THERE AND DID NOT HAVE THE  
OF THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS AT HEART AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY  
USED THEIR POSITION TO STEAL AND ENHANCE THEMSELVES AND GET  
AS MUCH MONEY AS THEY COULD AND THIS OF COURSE REACTED TO THE  
DETIMENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THESE VARIOUS DISTRICTS AND THEY  
WOULD CALL IN THE VIETCONG IN MANY CASES AND HAVE THESE  
PEOPLE  
ASSASSINATED.

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-2- SECTION 2 of 3 CANBERRA 505, AUGUST 1.

WESTERWAY: THIS WOULD HARDLY JUSTIFY ASSASSINATING THEM  
THOUGH, WOULD IT? EVEN IF THEY WERE CORRUPT WOULD IT JUSTIFY  
KILLING THEM?

BARTOS: WELL THEY WERE ALSO - THESE PEOPLE WOULD COMMIT  
CRIMES. NOW UNDER THE DIEM GOVERNMENT THEY - ANYBODY THAT  
WAS SUSPECTED OF BEING A VIETCONG - WAS PICKED UP AND THEY  
WOULD BE TORTURED. THEY HAD A ONE MILLION DOLLAR BUILDING

PUT UP ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAIGON WHERE THEY PRACTICED A VERY  
SOPHISTICATED TYPE OF TORTURES AND THIS WAS VERY WELL DOCUMENTED  
AFTER THE FALL OF DIEM AND SOME OF THESE DEVICES WERE REVEALED  
AND THIS IS WHY THAT BECAUSE OF THE TORTURE AND MURDER AND  
REPRESSION THAT POSSIBLY THE VIETCONG REACTED. I NEVER KNEW  
A VIETCONG OR ANYONE THAT WOULD REVEAL HIMSELF AS A VIETCONG  
TO ME SO I CAN'T SPEAK FROM THAT BUT I HAVE SEEN DOCUMENTED  
EVIDENCE AND I'VE SEEN AMERICAN TROOPS IN THE FIELDS STAND BY  
WHILE VIETCONG PRISONERS WERE TORTURED. THIS WAS EVEN RUN IN  
LIFE MAGAZINE WHICH IS HARDLY A FRIEND OF THE VIETCONG IN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SO I THINK THIS WAS A REACTION  
TO THAT AND ALSO I FEEL THAT THIS IS A CIVIL WAR. MANY OF THE  
SAIGON MILITARY PEOPLE WHO WERE FIGHTING  
WITH THE FRENCH IN THE 11 YEARS FRENCH-INDO CHINA WAR  
AND THEY COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE AND THIS OF  
COURSE BRINGS RETALIATION. WHEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON SAYS ONE  
MILLION PEOPLE VOTED WITH THEIR FEET AND MOVED FROM NORTH TO

SOUTH THEY HAD TO MOVE BECAUSE OF THE THINGS THAT THEY  
HAD DID, THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAD TO LEAVE OR BE KILLED  
THEMSELVES WELL , TWO DIFFERENT OCCASIONS I WAS DIRECTED TO

AN AREA TO PICK UP PASSENGERS - THREE  
PASSENGERS I PICKED UP WERE CIA MEN THAT I KNEW AND A VIETCONG  
PRISONER THAT WAS BOUND HAND AND

FOOT, AND THEY DIRECTED ME  
TO FLY TO PLEIKU TO A SPECIAL FORCES CAMP THERE WHERE  
THEY WERE GOING TO INTERROGATE THIS MAN, AND HE WAS A YOUNG

BOY ABOUT 19 YEARS OLD AND VERY FRIGHTENED, HE SPOKE ENGLISH  
TOO, SPOKE VERY WELL IN ENGLISH AND SO AFTER TAKE OFF THE  
MAN IN CHARGE, THE CIA MAN IN CHARGE, ASKED ME TO GO TO 8,000  
FEET BECAUSE HE SAID 'I'M GOING TO THROW THIS ROTTEN VIETCONG  
SO AND SO OVERBOARD AND KILL HIM YOU KNOW - BECAUSE I THINK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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-3- SECTION 2 of 3 CANBERRA 505, AUGUST 1.

WE HAVE GOT ALL THE INFORMATION WE NEED OUT OF HIM AND WE'RE JUST GOING TO GET RID OF HIM. AND THAT OF COURSE SHOCKED ME AND I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS IN COMMAND OF THE AIRCRAFT AND AS LONG AS I WAS IN COMMAND OF THE AIRCRAFT THERE WOULD BE NO-ONE THROWN OVERBOARD FROM MY AEROPLANE. TO EMPHASIZE THIS I HAD A SUB-MACHINE GUN THAT WAS A PERSONAL DEFENSE WEAPON THAT WAS UNDER MY SEAT - I PULLED IT OUT AND COCKED IT WITH A ROUND IN THE CHAMBER AND TOOK THE SAFETY OFF JUST TO LET THEM KNOW THAT I MEANT WHAT I SAID, AND LATER ON IT HAPPENED ON ANOTHER OCCASION, BUT SOON THEY WERE DISCOURAGED

FROM TRYING THIS NOW TOO. THE AMERICAN HELICOPTER CREWS

GOT GREAT FUN TO ~~THROW~~ PRISONERS

OVERBOARD. THEY WOULD QUESTION ONE

THEY WOULD ASK HIM A QUESTION IF HE DIDN'T ANSWER THEY WOULD THROW HIM OVERBOARD AND THEN THE NEXT ONE WOULD TALK AND EVEN IF HE TALKED THEY'D THROW HIM OVERBOARD, AND THEN THIS GOT TO BE AN EPIDEMIC SO THAT GENERAL WESTMORELAND ISSUED A WALLET SIZED RULING TO HIS TROOPS THAT THEY WERE NOT TO THROW PEOPLE OUT OF THE HELICOPTERS; THEY WERE NOT TO MURDER OR TORTURE PRISONERS BECAUSE OF THE REPRISAL THAT THE VIETCONG COULD TAKE. NOW I FOUND THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE A VERY DISTURBING ONE, THEY CONSIDERED THEM GOOKS - COWARDS. AS FAR AS THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY GOES THEY HAVE NO COURAGE, NO GUTS, AND THIS DISTURBS THE AMERICANS. THEY FEEL THAT THESE PEOPLE WILL NOT FIGHT FOR THEIR COUNTRY SO WHY SHOULD WE

AMERICANS FIGHT AND SAVE THEIR COUNTRY. AND THEY WILL TALK TO YOU FOR HOURS AS THEY DID ME AT A DA NANG AIR FORCE CLUB IN RUNNING THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE DOWN AND TELLING YOU HOW ROTTEN AND HOW LOUSY THEY ARE...WELL THE AMERICAN'S FAVORITE STORY THERE IS THAT 2,000 YEARS AGO CONFUCIUS PASSED THROUGH

VIETNAM HE SHOWED THEM HOW TO CARRY A BUCKED AT EACH END OF THE STICK AS THE NORMAL ORIENTAL SCENE, AND HE TOLD THEM DON'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL YOU HEAR FROM ME, AND SO FAR AS THE AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED THEY HAVEN'T HEARD FROM CONFUCIUS YET, SO THESE PEOPLE ARE SO BACKWARD. BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

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-4- SECTION 2 of 3 CANBERRA 505, AUGUST 1.

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE I FOUND ARE EXREMELY INTELLIGENT AND ARGRESSIVE AND THEY ARE VERY HARD WORKING PEOPLE AND I LIKE THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE VERY MUCH AND I HOPE WHEN THIS ALL SETLES DOWN SOME DAY THAT I WILL

BE ABLE TO GO BACK AND PERHAPS HELP THEM IN SOME SMALL WAY... PEOPLE

HAVE ASKED ME IF I WOULD HELP THEM WITH AN AIR SERVICE TO THE MOUNTAINS AND I CERTAINLY WOULD, BY RETURN TO SAIGON. WHEN I WAS OPERATING THERE I DID MAKE FRIENDS WITH MANY OF THE VIETNAMESE, WITH MECHANICS AND OTHER PEOPLE, AND WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT MY ATTITUDE WAS SYMPATIEIC TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND THE VIETNAMESE CULTURE HEY TOOK ME TO MANY PARTS OF SAIGON THAT OTHER AMERICANS WOULD BE AFRAID TO GO BUT I NEVER FELT IN FEAR OF MY LIFE AND MOST THE AMERICANS, EVEN WHEN THEY HAD THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN THERE, THEY STOOD ALOOF FROM THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THEY HAD THEIR PX - THE POST EXCHANGE, THEIR

DEPARTMENT STORES AND THEIR OWN NIGHT CLUBS AND THEIR OWN CLUBS AND THEY LIVE IN THEIR OWN HOUSING AND THEY KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE VIETNAMESE AND THIS GOES EVEN TO THE ADVISERS TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY. THEY DID NOT EAT TOGETHER, OR VERY SELDOM, AND AT THE END OF THE DAY THEY SEPARATED TO THEIR DIFFERENT CAMPS AND THEY HAD NO OTHER CONTACTS WITH EACH OTHER. AND OF COURSE THE AMERICANS WOULD TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT A ROTTEN COUNTERPART HE HAD - HE WAS YELLOW HE HAD NO GUTS AND SO ON AND SO FORTH... IN DA NANG THERE WERE FOUR BOYS THAT WERE AMERICANS CITIZENS AND THEY BELONGED TO THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE WHICH PRECEDED THE PEACE CORPS BY MANY MANY YEARS. THIS IS A QUAKER ORGANIZATION. NOW THESE BOYS WOULD REGULARLY GO DEEP INTO VIETCONG TERRITORY AND THEY WOULD BRING MEDICINE TO THE PEOPLE. THEY WOULD HELP THEM WITH AGRICULTURE AND WITH RAISING PIGS AND DIGGING WELLS AND DOING USEFUL THINGS OF THAT TYPE, AND EVEN THE VIETCONG PUT OUT LEAFLETS THAT THEY PASSED AROUND TO THE POIULATION THAT NO ONE WAS TO HARM THESE BOYS THAT THEY DID NOT CARRY WEAPONS AND THEY WERE GOOD FOR THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. SO THEY CAME AND THEY WENT WITH REGULARITY AND I HAVE NOT HEARD ANY REPORTS FROM ANY OF THEM THAT THEY WERE DISURBED OR HINDERED OR STOPPED IN ANY WAY BY THE VIETCONG OR OTHER PEOPLE THEY WERE WELCOME TO GO ANYWHERE  
CLARK  
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